

PASS A DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I think it is urgent for Congress to approve the disaster supplemental bill.

Although I welcome the House version, I am still waiting on the Senate side to work a final solution.

The more that passage is delayed, the longer our communities will wait because just passing the appropriation is the beginning of a drawn-out process.

I know my constituents are still waiting for the \$600 million for the Nutritional Assistance Program that I have long been advocating. That will cover the gap in funding under the supplemental appropriations we made immediately after Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

As of last month, those residents who have not fully recovered are already seeing a decrease in benefits because we have not yet passed the disaster bill.

For example, 20 months later, of some \$42 billion allocated to Puerto Rico, just \$12 billion has been outlaid. That means that we have work to do, and this funding is still being reviewed with great scrutiny from FEMA, HUD, and OMB. That is the reason I do believe we should move across aisles to make this happen.

LEGISLATING ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me, too, add my appreciation and congratulations to Head Start, a very viable program, not only in my district, as I watched little children become empowered with education, but also around the Nation. I congratulate all of those who were engaged in its beginning, and I thank them for their brilliance and their leadership.

I rise today to say that we are troubled because the work of this body is to legislate on behalf of the people of the United States. We are, in fact, the people's House, and we have done our work. We have passed disaster funding.

Those of us who are, if you will, the remnants of various hurricanes in the 2017 season—in particular, those that impacted the East Coast, Puerto Rico, Houston, and the State of Texas—are waiting for disaster funding, which we have done.

We are waiting for the Violence Against Women Act to be passed. We are waiting for the universal background checks to be passed. We are waiting for protecting people against losing their preexisting condition coverage and, of course, lowering prescription drugs to pass. All that has been passed in this House.

We are waiting as we begin to debate the Equality Act that will have a blind eye to anyone's difference and be able to celebrate them and support them without discrimination.

Where is the other body? Why haven't they passed a bill in 3 months? Why can't we do the work for the American people?

It is time to get the job done.

HONORING OFFICERS DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, highlighted by Peace Officers Memorial Day, which President John F. Kennedy designated, in 1962, as May 15.

Law enforcement officers and their families selflessly serve our communities across the country. Americans appreciate honoring officers, their families, and fallen heroes on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Law enforcement personnel are national heroes. We are grateful for their sacrifices made to serve and protect our country on a daily basis.

We also provide our deepest support and gratitude to those who have been injured or lost their lives in the line of duty and to their families. Grateful citizens across the country will take time to thank a police officer this week.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

STOP PRICE-FIXING ON GENERIC DRUGS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week, 44 attorneys general filed a lawsuit in Federal court against 20 generic drugmakers, alleging market manipulation and price-fixing.

The American people's tax dollars are invested in unprofitable basic research that is essential to bringing highly profitable drugs to market. The United States Government is also a huge purchaser of these generic drugs.

In some cases, it is alleged that one company sets the price of a drug and the others follow, without the cost-cutting influence of competition. All of this resulted in billions of dollars in harm to patients and the U.S. economy.

Congress must stop this price-fixing scheme and will vote this week to approve legislation to end this price-fixing and market manipulation perpetuated by these generic drugmakers.

ENACT THE JAKE LAIRD ACT OF 2019

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize National Police Week, let's provide our law enforcement every tool possible to prevent senseless acts of gun violence from harming or claiming the lives of innocent people, including our law enforcement officers.

That is why, today, I am reintroducing a gun violence reduction bill, categorized as a red-flag bill, with my colleague TED DEUTCH, who represents Parkland, Florida, and our colleagues from Michigan, FRED UPTON and DEBBIE DINGELL.

Our bill, the Jake Laird Act of 2019, is named after an IMPD officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice serving and protecting his community of Indianapolis, Officer Jake Laird.

Our bill provides grants to States to enact laws substantially similar to Indiana's red-flag law because we know that, since 2005, this Hoosier common-sense bill has been working.

Specifically, the Jake Laird Act will enable law enforcement to remove and retain firearms from individuals who are determined to be a danger to themselves or others, while ensuring due process under the law.

According to a USA Today article recently published, more than 30 States across the country are either considering similar measures or have passed red-flag laws.

It is past time for our Nation to adopt laws like Indiana's red-flag law that will keep our law enforcement and citizens safer.

WE DO NOT ALLOW DISCRIMINATION

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to tell you about Gwyn Ciesla of Aurora, Illinois. Gwyn is a wife, a mother of two, and an IT professional with two decades of experience. She is also a transgender woman.

Gwyn transitioned about 2 years ago. Shortly afterward, she began interviewing for jobs to advance her career.

Gwyn was met with hesitation from potential employers. On multiple occasions, recruiters were suddenly uninterested in Gwyn after they conducted in-person interviews—no follow-up, no phone calls or emails, just complete silence.

This is a horrifying reality for many people in the trans community like Gwyn. A 2016 report by the National Center for Transgender Equality found roughly 30 percent of trans people have been denied a job or a promotion, or were fired, because of their gender identity.

This kind of discrimination is not only hurtful and illegal, but it hurts our economy, which is why groups like the Chamber of Commerce and over 200